

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair has 2 stations (an ABC and a Fox affiliate) in the Columbus, Ohio broadcast area. This represents 1/2 of the basic network channels in our area.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The airing of blatantly biased political propaganda in the weeks before the election does not serve the public interest of our community.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. And they show why the FCC and other government agencies like the FEC need to take swift action when a broadcaster like Sinclair abuses the system for its own political gain.

Thank You.

Sharon Carney-Packard